(c) A committee to recommend amendments to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 was appointed by the Govt., which has since submitted its report. Necessary amendments to the existing Indian Post Offices Act will be made after the Govt. decides on the recommendations of the Post Office Act Review Committee.

STD/ISD Booths on the National Highways

3741. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of STD/ISD Booths on National Highways in the country ; and

(b) the total number of requirement of such booths and the steps taken by Government to meet the requirement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKHRAM) : (a) and (b) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LIMITING THE DURATION OF LOCAL CALLS

3742. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the impact of limiting the duration of local calls in Metros, on the traffic congestion;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the increase of total amount due to this duration limitation of local calls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKHRAM) : (a) No, Sir. Many factors count towards increase or decrease of traffic and to isolate the effect only on this account is not feasible.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Assessment is not possible. With new STD routes opening every day and business activities increasing, to isolate revenue increase, if any, on this account is not feasible.

Filling up of Posts Reserved for ST/SC

3743. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of promotions given since 1979 to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees alongwith General Employees;

(b) the number of promotions given ever since 1974 to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Officers in each grade of posts as per the 40 point promotional rosters ; and

(c) the number of posts filled by recruitments in each workman category and in each grade of officers ever since 1974 and the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates and filled therein at each level and grade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKHRAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House shortly.

Non Transfer of Money by Money Changer

@3744. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 30th January, 1994 that one Mr. Kingsley Anthony Fernandes, a money-changer, licensed by Reserve Bank of India fled to U.S. after cheating NRIs ;

(b) whether it is a fact that though he is a money-changer under Reserve Bank of India licence No. 276/92, he never transferred to India the money he took from unsuspecting Indian immigrant workers ;

@Previously unstarred Question 2793, transferred from the 16th March, 1994.

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to apprehend him immediately since he is moving freely in south India, according to the report in 'Indian Express' dated 30th January, 1994 ;

(d) whether he is running a Travel Agency in Nagar Koil called Shrayas Travels and free Air tickets given by him to the American Embassy Staff in India ensured special treatment for his clients applying for tourist visas, if so, will Government take steps to get this investigated by the CBI immediately and bring the culprit to book ; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Enquiries revealed that he had collected certain amounts in foreign exchange from certain persons in USA for ticketing, for their relatives in India, and that he never returned that money.

(c) Residential and business premises of Shri K. A. Fernandes were searched on 9-2-94 and as a result, certain incriminating documents were seized. He was arrested on 10-2-94 and produced before a Magistrate who remanded him to judicial custody. He has since been released on bail on 18-3-94. Further investigations are in progress.

(d) and (e) While it is true that Shri Fernandes is running a travel agency called M/s. Shrayas Travels at Nagar Koil, no comments can be offered about the visa policy of a foreign Government.

CBI Raid

@@3745. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether C.B.I. has recently raided the official and residential premises of certain General Managers of S.B.I. in Calcutta, Guwahati and New Delhi for their involvement in sanctioning loans to a Delhi based group ;

(b) if so, what are the details of allegations against these officers and the details of documents etc. apprehended ; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have reported that a case was registered by them under IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against General Manager, State Bank of India, Calcutta and General Manager, State Bank of India, Guwahati and a group of companies at Delhi on the allegation of showing undue favours in the matter of sanction of various loan advances facilities to the tune of Rs. 688 lakhs in an unauthorised manner. CBI has conducted searches wherein a large number of incriminating documents were reportedly seized by them.

State Bank of India has reported that both the General Managers were placed under suspension on 18-2-94 from the Bank's service.

Illegal Drugs

£3746. SHRI O. P. KOHLI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Times of India' dated 3rd March, 1994 under the caption "India transit route for illegal drugs" INCB ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to see that India is saved from the scourge of drugs and does not become a transit route for illegal drugs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Acetic Anhydride, a precursor chemical for manufacture of

@@Previously Unstarred Question 2872, transferred from the 16th March, 1994.

£ Previously Unstarred Question 2885, transferred from the 16th March, 1994.